



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, East Channel, LaCrescent, Minn./Wis.



I-90 Bay, Lower Island 98, and Minnesota Island, LaCrescent, Minn.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the project area encompasses several small bays and side channels on both the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides of the Mississippi River navigation channel in upper pool 8. East Channel is on the Wisconsin side, about one-half mile downstream of Lock and Dam 7. The sites lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. At Interstate 90 Bay, erosion of a peninsula was jeopardized the fishery resources of upper pool 8. At Lower Island 98 and Minnesota Island, erosion contributed to long-term loss of island habitat. These islands also maintained the East Channel as a large side channel. The areas downstream provide high quality overwintering habitat for walleye and receive heavy use by walleye prior to spawning.

The project restored and stabilized the peninsula at Interstate 90 Bay and stabilized the shoreline of Lower Island 98 and Minnesota Island. Rockfill was used to stabilize and restore 600 feet of the peninsula and about 900 feet of island shoreline.

The project restored and enhanced eight acres of fish habitat for walleye and northern pike and preserved about 11 acres of wooded island for habitat diversity.

Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1996 and was completed in June 1997. The project was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance in November 1997.

Authority

The East Channel Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) and constructed in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated September 1995. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Cost	\$558,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$558,000